ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Public communication on the second negotiation round on the modernisation of the ECT

On 8-11 September 2020, the Second Negotiation Round on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) was held by videoconference. Taking into account the list of agreed topics for modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty and the suggested policy options for modernisation of the ECT, the Modernisation Group has discussed this Round the topics of transit, sustainable development and corporate social responsibility, and dispute settlement.

The Modernisation Group discussed the aforementioned issues on the basis of text proposals submitted by the delegations. The goal of this Round was to explain and clarify the proposals and find common ground for the discussion without prejudice to any delegation's final position.

Full text of public communication is available on the International Energy Charter web-site in English and Russian.

Public Communication on the first negotiation round on the modernisation of the ECT

On 6 November 2019, the Energy Charter Conference established and mandated the Modernisation Group to start negotiations on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty, with a view to conclude negotiations expeditiously.

The First Negotiation Round on the Modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty took place on 6-9 July 2020 by videoconference.

Initial proposals and discussion papers were presented and discussed in detail by the delegations. The Modernisation Group took note of the comments and positions of the delegations as well as the progress made at the meeting. Taking into account the list of topics for modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty, the Group discussed the topics related to definitions and investment protection.

Full text of public communication is available on the International Energy Charter web-site in English and Russian.

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“...We are facing historical responsibility, and success cannot be taken for granted. However, we have all the elements for the future success on the table: the external and internal preconditions, the critical mass of Contracting Parties for modernisation, and the highly qualified Secretariat’s team supporting it. I am convinced that the Contracting Parties will be able to raise the common denominator to make Energy Charter Treaty 2.0 fit for its purpose for the next 25 years, enabling energy cooperation during the ongoing energy transition and strengthening the level playing field. A modernised ECT would be, without any doubt, attractive to many newcomers and will lead to the gradual acceptance of its principles and rules as an ultimate universal standard for international energy cooperation for the 21st Century.”

From the post of Dr. Urban Rusnák, Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter, on Kluwer Arbitration Blog
Modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty: The Long Story Told Short

As part of the general discussion, Kluwer Arbitration Blog has launched a week-long series offering different perspectives on the ECT Modernisation Process. The series was opened by an introductory post of the Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter, Dr Urban Rusnák, setting the scene and the historical background leading to the current negotiations. Full text is available here.

A Video Call Held with the Chair of the Energy Charter Conference

On 3 July, the Secretary General of the Energy Charter held a videoconference call with His Excellency Mr Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan and Chair of the Energy Charter Conference this year.

Keeping in line with the tradition of regular update and communication, the parties discussed a number of matters relevant to both the Chairmanship and the current activities within the Energy Charter Process. In particular, H.E. Minister Shahbazov was updated on the recent meetings of subsidiary bodies and the upcoming week of the first round of negotiations on modernisation. Further, the parties engaged in a discussion regarding current and future planning of the Azerbaijan Chairmanship in light of the pandemic, namely the Conference and other potential events linked to the Chairmanship. It was stated that Azerbaijan, both as Chairing country and a Contracting Party was following closely all events and meetings and developing its position.

On the Azerbaijani side, the video call was also attended by Mr. Samir Valiyev, the Deputy Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan and Deputy Chair of the Conference and Mr. Samir Abdurahimov, a Vice-Chair of the Modernisation Group.

In Memoriam: Mr. Yagshigeldy Kakayev, former Chair of the Energy Charter Conference

The Energy Charter Secretariat was very saddened to learn about the passing away of Mr. Yagshigeldy Kakayev, a former Chair of the Energy Charter Conference during Turkmenistan’s Chairmanship in 2017.

Mr. Kakayev, who held the position of an advisor on oil and gas matters to the President of Turkmenistan, was known as a prominent Turkmen statesman and a long-term high-profile member of the Turkmenistan Government. For many years he was a very active figure in the oil and gas sector of the country having served as Chairman of the Turkmenbashi State Concern, Director of the State Agency for the Management and Use of Hydrocarbon Resources, and Vice-Premier supervising the sector. He was also representing Turkmenistan in negotiations concerning pipelines and other prolific energy-related initiatives in the region. At his time as the Chair of the Energy Charter Conference, he was remembered for his professional and sincere approach and wise guidance.
Vacancies

Senior Investment Official (Head)

Temporary Principal Coordinator in Knowledge Centre

Temporary Energy Efficiency Coordinator

Please visit the web-site of the Energy Charter Secretariat (www.energycharter.org) for additional information.

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

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Energy Charter Secretariat Attends
the Anniversary Roundtable of Turkmenistan

On 25 September, the Secretary General of the Energy Charter, attended and spoke at a roundtable organized by the Embassy of Turkmenistan in the Kingdom of Belgium and devoted to the 25th Anniversary of the Permanent Neutrality of the country. The roundtable discussed the origins, evolution and future of the concept of neutrality in steering Turkmenistan’s foreign policy as well as its various regional and global initiatives, such as those in the areas of trade and investments, energy, connectivity, and environment.

Turkmenistan’s membership in the Energy Charter Treaty was particularly emphasized, with reference to the country’s large-scale projects for the establishment of multidimensional export infrastructure and initiatives regarding reliability and stability of transit and the role of transit corridors. As mentioned in the welcoming remarks of His Excellency Chary Atayev, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to the Kingdom of Belgium, “Our country is persistently promoting the idea of joint development of formats for political and economic cooperation in Central Asia, including Afghanistan and the Caspian region, proposing and supporting large projects with the participation of different states. In addition to well-known projects to optimize and expand the geography of pipeline routes, these are proposals in the field of energy, environment, water resources, communications, initiatives on the creation of new interregional transport routes between the countries of the region with access to markets of Europe, Southeast Asia and the Middle East”.

The event has brought together representatives of the diplomatic community, EU institutions, international organizations and think tanks and was held under the title of Constructive Dialogue for Peace and Sustainable Development.

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CHARTER FOR EU4ENERGY*

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EU4Energy presents building Energy performance Calculation methodology
Action plan and a Roadmap for Armenia

On 30 September an online workshop was organised to present the outcomes of the EU4Energy support provided to Armenia in the process of developing a consistent energy performance of building calculation methodology. A detailed Action plan and a Roadmap were elaborated jointly with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure and the State Committee for Urban Development of Armenia, with the goal to accelerate the replication of the best EU practices in full accordance with the Enhanced Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union (CEPA) and the Directive 2010/31/EU on energy performance of buildings (EPBD).
Participants discussed and agreed on the proposed steps and measures within the Action Plan for the next five years. Two categories of actions are envisaged i) core activities for developing the calculation methodology, and ii) supporting activities ensuring the proper enforcement of the EPBD requirements.

The primary beneficiaries of the calculation methodology would be government officials, architects, engineers, energy auditors, consultants, policy advisors and regulators with overall impacts in the processes of new building design’s and certification and existing building renovation’s and certification.

**EU4Energy – Natural Gas Market Reforms in Belarus**

On 23 July 2020 experts of the EU4Energy Project held an online meeting on natural gas market reforms in the Republic of Belarus. From Minsk the meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Energy and “Beltopgaz”.

Prior to the meeting the comprehensive Report on Natural Gas Market Reform was submitted to the Ministry of Energy for consideration and comments. During the meeting discussion went around the main findings of the Report, comparative analysis of Belarus, EAEU and EU gas markets, and touched upon the most challenging issues for potential gas market reforms in Belarus. In particular, these issues included the choice of appropriate gas market model, problems of third party access, unbundling measures, development of regulation on gas pricing, guaranty of uninterrupted transit and security of supply, energy trading, role of supranational sectoral bodies. Number of recommendations were presented which could guide Belarus experts through the process of future market reforms.

Belarus experts expressed their appreciation for the cooperation on this activity with the EU4Energy Project team and exceptional work accomplished by the international expert. It was also mentioned that the Report was submitted very much on time and helped in preparation of the document on gas market reform proposal which was presented to the Cabinet of Ministers for consideration.

*Funded under the EU4Energy Initiative of the European Union*